STATUTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

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Article I

STATUS AND PURPOSES

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women was established by the Economic and Social Council (Council resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976) in conformity with an earlier decision of the General Assembly (resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975), which was based on a recommendation made by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. The Institute is an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to serve as a vehicle on the international level for the purpose of undertaking research and establishing training programmes to contribute to the integration and mobilization of women in development, to raise awareness of women's issues world-wide and better to assist women to meet new challenges and directions. The Institute, as part of the United Nations, enjoys the status, privileges and immunities provided in Articles 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international agreements and United Nations resolutions relating to the status, privileges and immunities of the Organization.

Article II

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

1. The objectives of the Institute are to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and their integration in the developmental process both as participants and as beneficiaries. The Institute is

to assist the efforts of intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in this regard. Accordingly, the principal functions of the Institute shall be:

(a) To conduct research and studies which would enhance the effective integration and mobilization of women in development; the research and studies programmes of the Institute, including, in particular, action-oriented ones, shall give particular attention to the problems facing women in developing countries and to the integration of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development activities at all levels;

(b) To establish training programmes, including a fellowship programme and advisory services, through which the Institute shall endeavour to raise awareness on issues concerning women and development and shall strive to achieve equal participation of women in all aspects of economic and social development and to increase the opportunities for women to acquire new skills in order to meet the challenges of rapid change in today's society;

(c) To establish and maintain a system of information, documentation and communication so as to enable the Institute to respond to the need for disseminating information world-wide on women's issues.

2. In view of its catalytic role, the Institute shall make every effort to develop and utilize networking, as appropriate, in carrying out its functions. This should be done at the international, regional and national levels.

3. In the pursuit of its objectives the Institute shall carry out its activities in close collabora-

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tion and co-ordination with institutes and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system.

Article III

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Institute and its work shall be governed by a Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as "the Board").

2. The Board shall be composed as follows:

(a) Eleven members nominated by States and appointed by the Economic and Social Council with due regard to the fact that the Institute and its work are funded from voluntary contributions and to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The members of the Board shall serve in their individual capacities for a term of three years from the date of their appointment. They shall be eligible for reappointment by the Economic and Social Council for one further term. If a casual vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, the Economic and Social Council shall appoint a new member to serve for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the former member concerned. In nominating candidates for appointment as members of the Board, States should bear in mind the desirability of selecting persons with appropriate qualifications and expertise;

(b) A representative of the Secretary-General, the Director of the Institute, a representative of each of the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and a representative of the host country, who shall serve as ex officio members of the Board.

3. The Board shall:

   (a) Formulate principles, policies and guidelines for the activities of the Institute;

   (b) Consider and approve the work programme and the budget proposals of the Institute on the basis of recommendations submitted to it by the Director of the Institute;

   (c) Make recommendations necessary or desirable for the operations of the Institute;

   (d) Report periodically to the Economic and Social Council and where appropriate to the General Assembly.

4. The Board shall meet at least once a year. It shall elect its own officers, including its President, in accordance with the adopted rules of procedure. It shall take its decisions in the manner provided in its rules of procedure.

5. The Board shall consider methods for enhancing the financial resources of the Institute with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of its future operations, their continuity and the Institute's autonomous character within the framework of the United Nations.

6. Members of the Board in furtherance of the principles and policies of the Institute may be invited to help in achieving the goals of the Institute by attending meetings on behalf of the Institute, raising funds for the Institute's operations and helping to establish national support teams, if possible, in their respective countries for the attainment of the objectives of the Institute.

7. Organizations of the United Nations system and other institutions may be represented as appropriate at meetings of the Board in respect

of activities of interest to them under the conditions outlined in the rules of procedure of the Board.

Article IV

THE DIRECTOR AND THE STAFF

1. The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, after consultation with the Board.

2. The Director shall have overall responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute in accordance with general directives by the Board and within the terms of the authority delegated to the Director by the Secretary-General. The Director shall, inter alia:

   (a) Submit the work programmes and the budget estimates of the Institute to the Board for its consideration and adoption;

   (b) Oversee the execution of the work programmes and make the expenditures envisaged in the budget of the Institute as adopted by the Board;

   (c) Submit to the Board annual and ad hoc reports on the activities of the Institute and the execution of its work programmes;

   (d) Submit to the Economic and Social Council or to the General Assembly as appropriate reports approved by the Board;

   (e) Appoint and direct the staff of the Institute on behalf of the Secretary-General;

   (f) Co-ordinate the work of the Institute with that of other organs and bodies of the United Nations, the specialized agencies

and international, regional and national institutions in similar fields;

(g) Negotiate arrangements with Governments and intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations, academic and philanthropic institutions with a view to offering and receiving services related to the activities of the Institute;

(h) Actively seek appropiate funding for the implementations of the work programme of the Institute;

(i) Accept, subject to the provisions of article VI, paragraph 2, below, voluntary contributions to the Institute;

(j) Make the necesary arrangements for securing established and continuos contact with and support from United Nations Headquarters;

(k) Undertake other assignments or activities as may be determined by the Board or requested by the Secretary-General, provided that any such requests are consistent with the programme budget approved by the Board.

3. The staff of the Institute shall be appointed by the Director on behalf of the Secretary-General and in accordance with modalities established by the Secretary-General, within the staffing table approved by the Board. Such appoinment shall be limited to service with the Institute. The staff shall be responsible to the Director in the exercise of their functions.

4. The staff of the Institute shall be recruited on as wide a geographical basis as possible, full consideration being given to the particular re-

quirements of and qualifications for each post needed by the Institute.

5. The terms and conditions of service of the Director and the staff shall be those provided in the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, subject to such arrangements for special rules or terms of appointment as may be approved by the Secretary-General. The salaries, allowances and other expenses of the Director and the staff shall be borne by the Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of women.

6. The Director and the staff of the Institute shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any authority external to the United Nations. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization.

7. The Director and the staff of the Institute are officials of the United Nations and are therefore covered by Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and by other international agreements and United Nations resolutions defining the status of officials of the Organization.

Article V

FELLOWS, CONSULTANTS, CORRESPONDENTS AND FOCAL POINTS

1. The Board may designate as honorary fellows individuals who could contribute substantively to the Institute's objectives.

2. The Director may designate a limited number of especially qualified persons to serve as senior fellows of the Institute, for a period not

longer than one year, in accordance with criteria established by the Board and procedures formulated by the Secretary-General. Such persons, who may be invited to participate as lecturers or research scholars, shall be selected on the basis of outstanding contributions they have made in fields germane to the work of the Institute.

3. The Director may also designate junior fellows as part of the Institute's ongoing fellowship programme. All fellowships will be granted within the financial provisions of the Institute's programme budget.

4. The Director may also arrange for the services of consultants for the purpose of contributing to the analysis and planning of the activities of the Institute or for special assignments in connection with the Institute's programmes. Such consultants shall be engaged in accordance with policies established by the Secretary-General.

5. Correspondents and focal points in countries or regions approved by the Board may be used by the Institute to assist in maintaining contacts with national or regional institutions and in carrying out or advising on studies and research.

6. Honorary, senior or junior fellows, consultants and correspondents shall not be considered to be members of the staff of the Institute.

Article VI

FINANCE

1. The activities of the Institute shall be funded by voluntary contributions from States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and private sources.

. Contributions to the Institute may be accepted provided that they are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Institute. Voluntary contributions that are unrestricted or that are designated for the implementation of an activity approved by the Board may be accepted by the Director after obtaining the concurrence of the Controller of the United Nations. Other voluntary contributions may be accepted only with the approval of the Board, which shall take into account the comments of the Secretary-General. Contributions which may directly or indirectly involve an inmediate or ultimate financial liability for the United Nations may be accepted only with the approval of the General Assembly.

. The funds of the Institute derived from voluntary contributions shall be kept in the Trust Fund the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women established by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

. The funds in the Trust Fund of the Institute shall be held and administered solely for the purposes of the Institute. The Controller of the United Nations shall perform all necesary financial and accounting functions for the Institute, including the custody of its funds, and shall prepare and certify the annual accounts of the Institute.

. The Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the financial policies and procedures established by the Secretary-General shall apply to the financial operations of the Institute. Funds of the Instiutte shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

6. The Institute may, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and rules of the United Nations, enter into contracts with organizations, intitutions or firms for the purpose of carrying out its operations. The Institute may acquire or dispose of real and movable property in accordance with the same Regulations and Rules.

Article VII

ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER SUPPORT

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the Institute with appropriate administrative and other support, including financial and personnel services, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and on conditions determined after consultations between the Secretary-General and the Director of the Institute, it being understood that no extra costs to the regular budget of the United Nations are incurred.

Article VIII

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

1. The Institute shall develop arrangements for active and close co-operation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations as well as with other organs, programmes and institutions within the United Nations system.

2. The Institute shall endeavour to develop arrangements for co-operation with other organizations or institutions involved in training and research activities which are relevant to the work of the Institute and which may be of assistance to the Institute in the performance of its functions.

Article IX

LOCATION

The Headquarters of the Institute shall be located in the Dominican Republic at Santo Domingo. The Institute may with the approval of the Board and after consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations establish other offices elsewhere.

Article X

AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this statute may be made by the Economic and Social Council.

2. The Board may review the provisions of this statute and propose to the Economic and Social Council such amendments as it may consider necessary.

3. The Secretary-General may submit to the Board or, if necesary, to the Economic and Social Council, after consultation with the President of the Board, proposals for the revision of the present statute.

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